

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

March 5, 2001

What's Inside



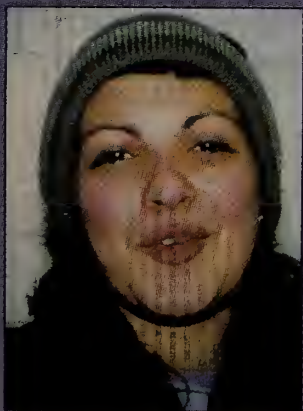
Sex show all around stimulating.

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New faculty has a rockin' background.

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Students support CSI complaint forms.

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COMMENTARY

Ooooooh, what's that smell?

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We're ISO certified, almost

By Tammy Somerville

Conestoga College completed the final phase in its goal to become the first educational institution in North America to be completely ISO certified.

Auditors from KPMG, an external auditing company, reviewed and assessed the college's International Standards Organization documentation Feb. 26 and despite four minor non-conformances, the college will be recommended for certification.

Non-conformances are things that do not comply with ISO standards.

The ISO sets definable and documented standards for consistency and quality for businesses to follow.

Conestoga will get the final word in four to six weeks, after KPMG assesses the review by its auditors. A company has never been turned down for ISO certification after



John Tibbits, Conestoga College's president (left), KPMG assessors Joe Beingessner and Carolyn Macdonald and Bill Jeffrey, dean of the school of health sciences and community services and ISO management representative for the college, are all smiles Feb. 26. After their final ISO registration audit Beingessner and Macdonald announced Conestoga will be recommended for certification.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

being recommended.

John Tibbits, Conestoga's president, said being ISO 9001 certified

will mean a number of things for the college.

"I think one of the most impor-

tant things is the pride. We feel very proud that we've done this. We're happy," said Tibbits.

From a marketing point of view, being certified is important because many of the companies Conestoga deals with like ATS and Toyota, are also ISO certified.

"These are companies that we train a lot of students for and they also give considerably as far as donations."

Tibbits said the college has done well in Key Performance Indicator (KPI) surveys, but there is always room for improvement.

KPI annual surveys establish benchmarks of excellence at Ontario's 25 colleges. Established two years ago by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, KPIs are based on independent surveys completed by students, graduates and employers. Conestoga has maintained a No. 1 position two years in a row.

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Valentine's Day vandals hit college cars

By Tammy Somerville

Some students received an unwelcome Valentine's Day present when their cars were broken into Feb. 14.

A total of five Japanese and foreign import cars had their windows smashed and car stereos stolen after an unprecedented crime spree across Doon campus parking lots.

Al Hunter, security services supervisor, said the break-ins, which occurred in lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11, happened between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

"In each instance, someone broke a window to get access and in each instance it appears the thieves were after stereo equipment or CD changers."

Hunter added most of the equipment stolen were JVC models, but he was unable to give the total value.

The college has 3,000 parking spots spread over 12 parking lots. The thefts occurred on opposite sides of the campus's 130 acres.

"We only had one break-in this year before this instance and all of them have been student vehicles," said Hunter.

"Unfortunately in this most recent case, some of the students were from out of town and had to get home. Security services helped some patch up their windows with blankets and tape, enough to be able to drive home because the weather was really bad that day."

Heavy, wet snowflakes blanketed Waterloo Region during the day and snow continued to fall through rush hour, when most students were on their way home.

Hunter said he believes the thieves were not part of the college community. The location of Conestoga makes it an easy target, said Hunter.

"We're right off the 401. Most colleges along the 401 corridor probably see more of this type of crime."

Waterloo regional police were notified of the incidents because of the possibility that other parking lots in the area may also have been hit.

Conestoga security services is taking additional steps to prevent any more break-ins by adding additional patrols.

"We also want to inform students, faculty, and staff to keep a look out for suspicious people," said Hunter. "In this instance the thieves were pretty brashy. Everyone should know that these things don't just happen after hours and after dark."

Security services wants all members of the college community to be aware break-ins do happen, although they are rare.

"If anyone sees people hanging around, they should let us know. The more pairs of eyes and ears there are out there," said Hunter, "the safer the college will be."

Everyone at the college is encouraged to trust their instincts, even if it

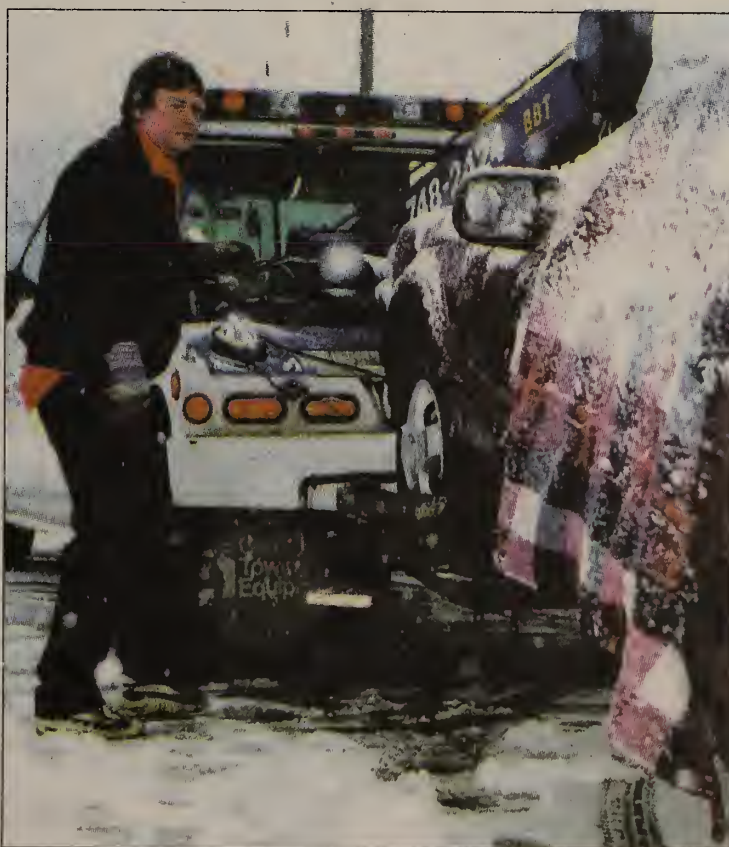
is just a car alarm they hear.

"If it doesn't look right, give us a call. If it's nothing, then great. We'll never treat anyone as being over zealous."

Three vehicles have been stolen

from Doon campus parking lots since Jan. 4.

A '95 General Motors pickup, a '93 Chevrolet Blazer and a '97 Chevrolet pickup were stolen between Jan. 4 and Jan. 17.



Ken Corbett, tow truck driver for Becker Bros. Towing, prepares to tow one of the cars broken into Feb. 14. A total of five cars had their windows smashed and stereo equipment stolen.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Conestoga women join male-dominated world of skilled trades

By Sanja Musa

Conestoga College is one of the seven community colleges in Ontario that offers the Manufacturing Technology for Women program to women who are striving for a better and more secure financial future and are interested in technology trades.

Manufacturing Technology for Women is a pre-apprenticeship training program initiated by the Ontario Women's Directorate and the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association to prepare women for careers in the manufacturing industry because of the significant shortage of women in the male-dominant environment of skilled trades.

The shortage is especially felt in trades such as tool and die makers, general machinists, mould makers, industrial electricians and industrial millwrights.

"They had to be interested in working in trades and technology areas."

*Lynne Barlow,
co-ordinator of the
manufacturing technology
for women*

Besides Conestoga College, the Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington, Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology in Barrie, Niagara College in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fanshawe College in London, St. Clair College in Windsor and Mohawk College in Hamilton also offer the Manufacturing Technology for Women program.

The Ontario Women's Directorate funds the full-time programs for 20 women in the industrial electrician program at the Doon campus in Kitchener and another 20 in the tool and die/general machinist program at the Guelph campus.

The full-time programs, which consist of 30 weeks of class studies and 20 weeks of paid work placements, are to start on March 12.

Applicants were offered free information sessions at both Doon and Guelph campuses, where they received a description of the types of courses taught, had a chance to meet some of the instructors, learned about work placements and explored job opportunities in various manufacturing occupations.

The information sessions were held at the college's Guelph campus on Feb. 6 and 7 and at the Doon campus on Feb. 13, 21 and 27.

According to Lynne Barlow, co-ordinator of the Manufacturing Technology for Women program within the School of Trades and Apprenticeship at Conestoga College, the turnout of about 40

women on the first information session was higher than expected. She said a lot of women were concerned about the math component of the program, but they were also enthusiastic.

"A lot of women were very enthusiastic about being offered an opportunity to get into the trade areas without paying a tuition fee for the program," she said. "Most of them were also quite amazed when they saw the shop because it involves a lot of high technology, computerized learning assistance."

According to Barlow, the prerequisites for enrolment in the program were the women's age and their previous education.

Women interested in the program had to be at least 16 years old and had to have Grade 12 or an equivalent education to enter the program, said Barlow.

"Of course, they also had to be interested in working in trades and technology areas," she added.

Applicants also had to complete a participation questionnaire and mathematics, English and mechanical reasoning tests. Based on the assessment of the tests, only a certain number of the applicants was invited to return for a personal interview.

Barlow said that 30 weeks of class studies at the Doon campus consists of courses such as safety, mathematics, trade theory, instrumentation and electronics, practical applications, prints, standards and code, personal assessment and career planning skills and employment skills and strategies. To complete the program, students must also complete 600 hours at paid work placements.

"Women will be offered assistance in finding job placements," Barlow said. "I will be monitoring how the women are doing at their job placements. There will be ongoing support, so that the 20-week placements turn into permanent jobs."

After completion of the program, women will have an opportunity to write an exemption test and to enrol in the second year of the five-year apprenticeship program, said Barlow.

However, the biggest benefit women will gain after completion of the program lies in a more secure financial future, she added.

The starting salary levels in manufacturing occupations are about \$10 an hour, Barlow said. However, after five or 10 years, they will be a lot higher. The women will have an opportunity to earn about \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year.

"If they continued to work at Wendy's or at some other similar job, they would probably also earn \$10 now," said Barlow. "But that wouldn't increase as much in five or 10 years as it will if they spend the same period of time working in various areas of the skilled trades."

College and McMaster enter into partnership

Nursing gets four-year degree program

By Derek Lester

For the first time in the college's history, Conestoga will be starting a fully integrated degree partnership.

The partnership has been formed with McMaster University for the nursing program, now that all registered nurses must have a degree instead of a diploma starting in 2005.

The four-year integrated degree in nursing will be offered at Conestoga College's Doon campus as McMaster University instructors will travel to Kitchener to teach along with Conestoga faculty.

Bill Jeffrey, the dean for the school of health sciences and community services, said, "the college is very happy to have McMaster as a partner because they are an accredited educational facility."

The partnership is actually a three-way deal with McMaster University, Conestoga and Mohawk College and together it is going to form a very strong nursing program relationship because all three schools have solid programs, he added.

Conestoga already has a diploma nursing program, which will not be offered again after this year.

The degree the graduating students will earn will be a bachelor of science in nursing (BScN) at the honours level, like all nursing programs, and the degree will be granted by McMaster. Conestoga

will be recognized on the degree.

The bachelor of science in nursing degree will include more courses in science, research and statistics, higher levels of nursing skill and theory-based work and a higher level of expectations in elective classes.

These classes will help prepare the graduates for the revamped Canadian National Nursing Exam that will start in 2005, the first year for the degree graduates.

"The college is very happy to have McMaster as a partner because they are an accredited educational facility."

*Bill Jeffrey,
dean for the school
of health sciences
and community services*

Unfortunately, students will have to pay about \$3,800 to \$4,000 in tuition, which is double the tuition for the diploma nursing program, Jeffrey said.

Admission requirements will also change as the college will need students to have at least six OACs to enter the program, said Jeffrey. They will have to have at least one course in English, one in math, two in science and two other courses of the student's choice.

The college could never ask for students to have OAC courses before, he added.

Students will only have to acquire OAC courses until 2003, when the OAC year is eliminated from high schools.

Then, students will need one year of university courses in health sciences before entering Conestoga, Jeffrey said.

Conestoga will have to enlarge the skills lab, acquire more classrooms and rebuild the science lab to accommodate the new nursing program, he said.

Conestoga will enroll between 80 and 100 nursing students this September and 80 to 100 more nursing students in January 2002.

The nursing students currently enrolled at Conestoga will not have to get a degree, but will have to prove they can meet nursing standards once a year after entering the field.

The Council of the College of Nurses of Ontario and the government is in favour of all nurses having degrees instead of diplomas and that is the reason for the change.

Expecting nurses to have degrees is not new, said Jeffrey. It has been discussed for about 35 years.

The standards are going up in all nursing programs and paramedic programs because increased skill and knowledge are at a higher requirement than ever before, Jeffrey said.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Final Exams

Whether to panic or to prepare. Whether to sulk or to study. Whether to become enlightened or to remain in the dark, hoping for the best. How you use your time and energy is up to you and will determine your level of success or failure.

To go into the exam period with your eyes wide open, you need to know:

- how many exams you have and in which subjects;
- when, where and for how long they are scheduled;
- what material will be covered with emphasis on which areas;
- what format the exam will have (multiple choice, essay, short answer);
- what percentage of your final mark the exam covers.

About three weeks before exams start, mark the times and locations of each exam on a calendar. For each course, list what you need to study and the sources you will use (textbook, class notes, lab. assignments). Estimate the amount of study time you will need and indicate study periods on the calendar. By planning ahead, you know you will have time for each subject.

Use all sources of help available to you: old exams, classmates, study groups, class review time, text notes or highlighted sections, text summaries and chapter questions. Ask your faculty for help and information about the exam.

Avoid common mistakes:

- over-studying for the first exam and running out of time and energy for the others;
- working hard for the course(s) you like and neglecting others;
- not starting early enough, leaving too little time during exam week.

If you would like assistance in preparing for final exams, come to the Student Services office, or attend one of our workshops:

"Preparing for Final Exams" workshop
(date time room)

A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02)

Sex with Sue fun and educational

By Sanja Musa

Sue Johanson, who doesn't hesitate to talk about any aspect of human sexuality, proved once more to be a top-class entertainer when she appeared at Conestoga College's Sanctuary on Feb. 13.

Johanson, a registered nurse and host of the Sunday Night Sex Show which was launched in 1995 on Women's Television Network, has been talking to Canadians about sex for close to 30 years.

She started off her sex show at Conestoga College by comparing the reaction of male and female children when they discover early in their lives that they are sexual beings.

At first, Johanson said, male and female children react similarly to their newly discovered sexuality and both equally like to explore ways to achieve sexual pleasure.

However, Johanson said, parents soon try to plant the seeds of guilt into their children because their newly discovered sexual feelings don't comply with parents' concept of morality and proper behaviour.

"Sexual feelings are normal, natural and healthy," Johanson said. "However, parents make boys feel like perverts if they are exploring their sexuality."

Parents go even a step further when they give their daughters a first lesson on sexuality, she said.

"Nice girls don't do that. They are different from guys," said Johanson referring to the parents' advice to their daughters.

However, male and female children accept the first lesson on sexu-

ality differently, Johanson added.

"Guys listen, turn away and forget what their parents just told them because they know it feels good," she said. "But girls incorporate parents' words into their behaviour."

Johanson said parents make mistakes when they don't encourage their children to explore their sexuality, but make sex a taboo topic. Yet she admitted she has made the same mistakes as other parents.

"I can talk openly about sex to anyone else but to my children. I don't give a damn what you do, but my children won't do it."

*Sue Johanson,
Sunday Night Sex Show host*

"I'm a mother of three children and I am imposing my moral values on my daughter. It didn't really work with my sons," Johanson said. "I can talk openly about sex to anyone else but to my children. I don't give a damn what you do, but my children won't do it."

Johanson seamlessly switched the topic and gave the female side of the audience some advice on how to achieve sexual pleasure.

"Females are responsible for their own sexual satisfaction," she said. "It's unfair to expect men to know what brings women sexual pleasure."

However, she reminded women that men usually don't like when

their female partners explore ways to achieve sexual fulfillment on their own.

"When a woman brings a vibrator into a relationship, her partner makes a huge fuss about it," she said.

Johanson also told the 150 students who attended the event a story about an incident when the airport security thought her sex toy called "natural contours" was actually some kind of an electronic pen eraser.

She didn't fail to give advice to the male side of the audience.

She told the men that each of them has on average 500 million hyperactive sperms and commented, "It is enough to populate the whole world. So guys, don't worry."

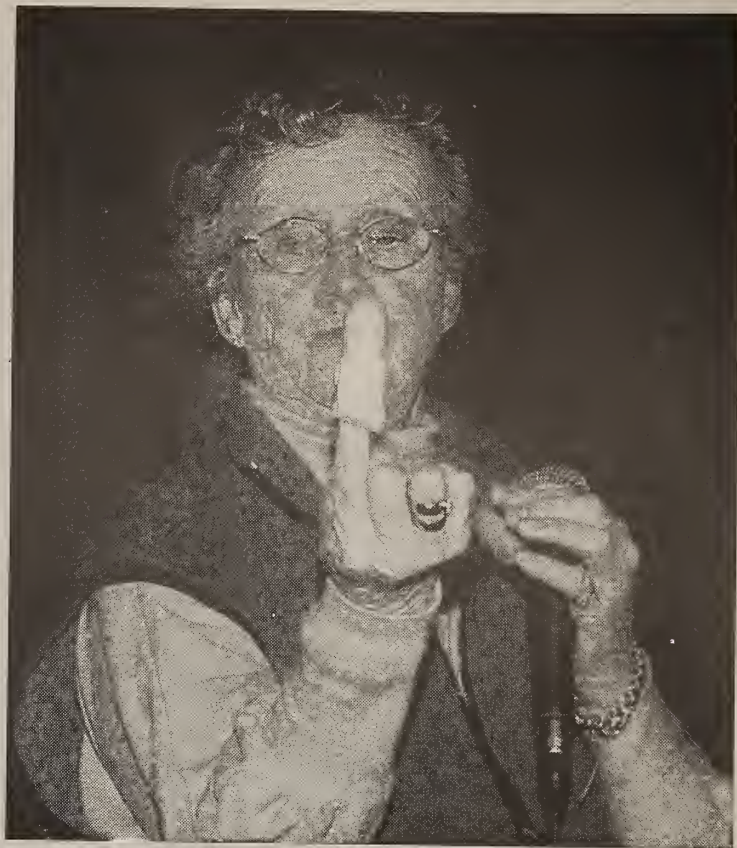
Students had an opportunity to write their questions for Johanson and put them in a box when they entered the Sanctuary prior to the show. Johanson answered all of the about 20 anonymous questions.

Although laughter was heard throughout almost the entire show, the Sanctuary grew silent when Johanson answered one of the questions on sexually transmitted diseases.

"Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted disease," Johanson said. "It is almost epidemic. There are no physical symptoms of the disease, but it causes permanent sterility in both men and women. A real cure for this disease hasn't been found yet."

Johanson said the entire show actually carried a serious message for Conestoga students.

"I want the students to know what they are doing and to plan



Sue Johanson, host of the Sunday Night Sex Show, discussed various sexual aids with Conestoga College students during her show in the Sanctuary Feb. 13.

(Photo by Sanja Musa)

their actions ahead," said Johanson. "I also want them to always practise safe sex."

According to some students' opinion, Johanson succeeded in getting her message across.

"The show was entertaining, but it was also informational," said Mike Maxwell, a third-year mar-

keting student.

Bob Smith, a second-year wood-working technician student, echoed Maxwell's opinion.

"It was fun and educational at the same time," he said while Rachel Butcher, a second-year law and security student, nodded her head in approval.

Conestoga College

Quality Policy

Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.

ISO 9001
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Conestoga College

Drunk drivers are responsible

Citizens who make mistakes should pay the price

When a person is awarded \$300,000 for driving home drunk from an office party, it smacks of something disturbing.

Linda Leigh Hunt of Barrie must be laughing. Recently awarded \$300,000 from the Ontario Superior Court for an incident in 1994, she is now only 75 per cent responsible for her own actions.

In 1994, the Sutton Group Incentive Realty of Barrie, of which she was an employee, held a Christmas party with an open bar. Hunt helped herself to enough alcohol to acquire twice the legal limit in her bloodstream, and then drove home.

Of course, not before she and a few co-workers drove to a local bar for a few more drinks. After leaving P.J.'s Pub, she continued her drive home.

That is, until she lost control of her vehicle in the slippery conditions and veered into oncoming traffic, hitting a truck.

The Superior Court of Ontario ruled that her employer and the pub were equally responsible for 25 per cent of her damages. But since the pub has since gone out of business, that leaves her former employer holding the bag for \$300,000.

Think on that ruling.

The Superior Court awarded Linda Leigh Hunt \$300,000 for driving drunk. The Superior Court told her, and all of us, that she wasn't completely at fault for her own actions.

No one told Hunt to drink. No one told her to drink to excess. No one told her to drive home. She made all those decisions on her own. She should then be responsible for the consequences of those decisions.

They told her, and us, that she wasn't completely responsible for the consequences of those actions.

Consider if someone other than she had been injured in that accident. She might have been awarded \$300,000 for injuring someone.

It is a sad testament to our society when citizens are not expected to take responsibility for their own actions.

Hunt is merely the latest example of what is wrong with our little corner of the world.

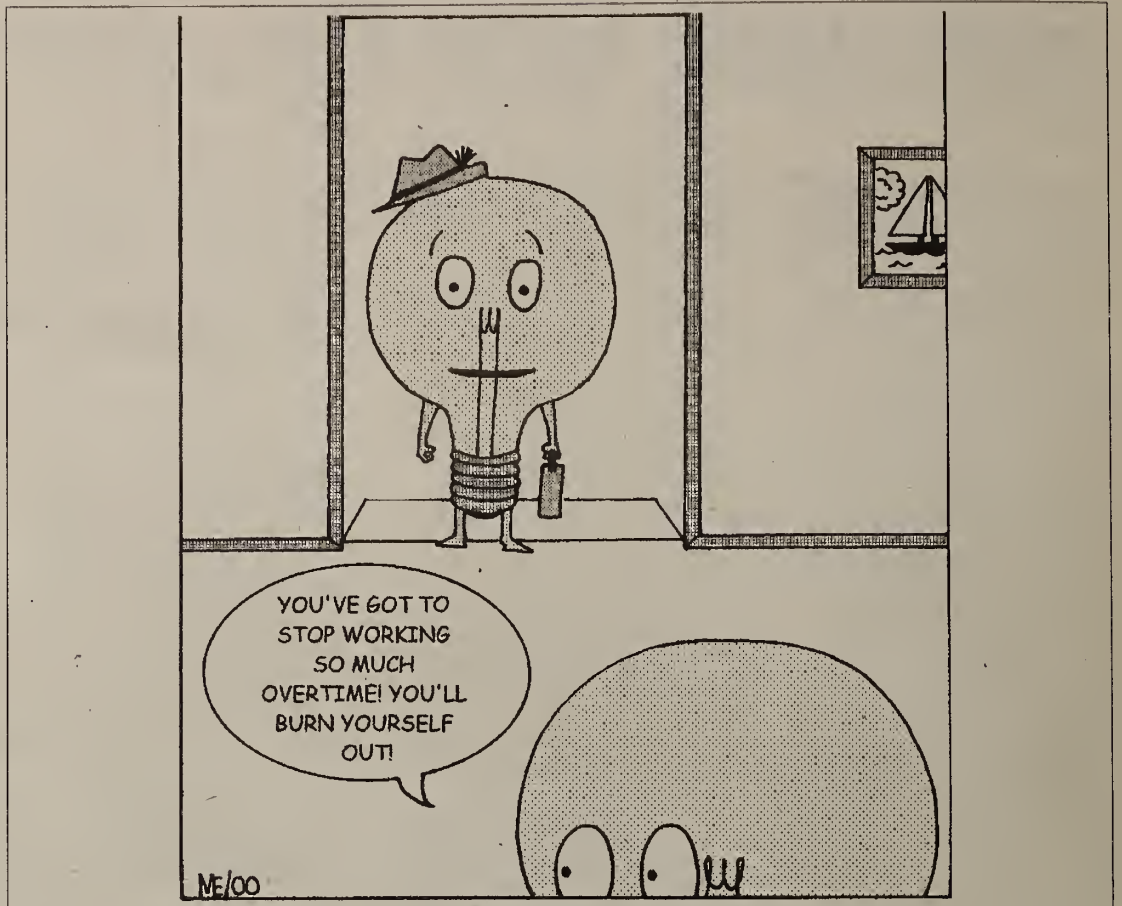
No one told Hunt to drink. No one told her to drink to excess. No one told her to drive home. She made all those decisions on her own. She should then be responsible for the consequences of those decisions.

But no. Not according to our Superior Court.

But Hunt is not the problem, she is merely a symptom, and she is someone who quite intelligently took advantage of a flawed system.

The problem lies not with Hunt, but with a legal system that awards people for escaping responsibility. It has failed us and it failed her by allowing her to believe she wasn't totally at fault for her own actions.

Citizens who make mistakes should deal with them like responsible adults. But that's just it. We are no longer a society of responsible adults.



Get a whiff of this

Life stinks.

Well at least parts of it anyway.

Ever walk down the hallway and think to yourself, "O o o o o h, what's that smell?"

Or go to the gym and get stuck on a Stairmaster where the person beside you, sweat running down their forehead, doesn't smell like sweat at all, but smells like a bottle of cologne or perfume exploded all over them?

You're sitting in class and your eyes are watering and your nose is burning because the person beside you has rubbed on, squirted on or sprayed on a bit too much eau de toilette?

Often I have found myself sweating it out at the gym, my lungs are wide open, taking in all the air around me, when all of a sudden, whoosh, I can't breathe.

I have to cover my nose and walk away. I didn't need to do another rep anyway.

I have no problem with fragrance, I have no allergies and I don't think my nose is any more sensitive than the next person's.

I think perfumes and colognes should come with directions like



Tammy Somerville

everything else from frozen french fries to baby Aspirin. Or maybe the bottles should have automatic dispensers, one squirt per day.

I love scented candles, incense and even have some perfume of my own. I didn't buy it. It was a Christmas gift, but I haven't thrown it out. I keep saying to myself that someday I'll wear it.

It is said that our nose envelops life's aromas and sucks them into our bodies, savouring them.

I savour the smells of vanilla, cinnamon, my son and someone freshly showered, and even the smell of a good sweat.

The experienced nose is said to be able to recall a scent at a moment's notice. It can awake images and emotions, turning a key to unlock a treasured memory.

The smell of Tommy Girl, however, does not rouse any heartwarming childhood memories or tantalize any memories I might have from an evening of passionate sex.

Egyptians are believed to be the first to incorporate perfume into their culture.

From the religious ceremonies involving the burning of incense to the embalming of the dead, perfume was an integral part of the Egyptian life. Scents were considered more precious than gold.

In the Bible, one of the Three

Wise Men brought this gift to the newborn Christ.

I wonder if it resembled today's Calvin Klein, Roots or Oceanus.

The Bay's most popular perfumes for teen girls are Ralph and Tommy Girl and the adolescent male population prefers Swiss Army and Aqua Di Gio.

The Body Shoppe, known for its natural, environmentally friendly products, sells plenty of Oceanus and Spirit of Moonflower.

What could Swiss Army and Spirit of Moonflower really smell like? My nose is tingling just thinking about it.

I remember watching a show like Dateline NBC, 20/20 or actually, it could even have been Oprah or The Learning Channel, but anyway, scientists said what attracts humans to each other is their own body scents.

Not Herbal Essence shampoo or coconut scented body lotion, but our own skin. We each have our own individual smell. We get it from what we eat and drink. So I guess I must smell like broccoli and wine.

I am sure that there are some wonderful smelling perfumes and colognes out there, but users should be aware not all scents conjure up warm, happy, sad or sexy memories. Sometimes the smell just makes you want to plug your nose because sometimes, life stinks.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

Editor: Tammy Somerville; Photo Editor: Michelle Goring; Production Manager: Paul Kostal

Advertising Manager: Derek Lester; Circulation Manager: Sanja Musa

Faculty Adviser: Sharon Dietz; Faculty Supervisor: Christina Jonas

SPOKE's address is 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B14, Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4.

Phone: 748-5220, ext. 691, 692, 693, 694 Fax: 748-3534 E-mail: spoke@conestogac.on.ca

SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by a payment from Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI) in exchange for the insertion of advertising in the paper. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the CSI. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the CSI unless their advertisements contain the CSI logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect or MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).

Emergency pill available at college health clinic

By Sanja Musa

The emergency contraceptive pill or ECP is available to female Conestoga College students at the college's health clinic as well as at other health units in Waterloo Region.

ECP is an elevated dose of birth control pills that contain estrogen and progesterone and it is used to prevent pregnancy within 72 hours after unprotected intercourse. The ECP works by interrupting a female's reproductive cycle by slowing ovulation and lessening sperm's mobility.

"I thought it would be nice to offer the same service to Conestoga students as other students, for instance, at university in Waterloo have," said Dr. Anne Marie Mingiardi, a doctor with the college's health clinic. "A woman has to get the pill as soon as possible. So, it is much more convenient if she can get it here, at the college, instead of going to the Waterloo health or urgent care clinics."

The ECPs available by prescription in Canada are Ovral and Preven, each consisting of four strong birth control pills with the hormones estrogen and progesterone.

Although instructions on Preven, produced by Roberts Pharmaceutical, stress that it will not dislodge or abort pregnancy, a controversy resurfaced when Preven became available on pharmacy shelves in Canada last year, because pro-life groups associated Preven with an abortion pill RU-486.

According to Contraceptive Technology, a book written by Dr. Robert A. Hatcher, Dr. Felicia Stewart, Dr. Deborah Kowal, Dr. Gary K. Stewart, Dr. Willard Cates and PhD James Trussell published in 1990-'92, RU-486 is "a competitive antagonist of progesterone."

When given in the late menstrual cycle, RU-486 leads to menses. If given within several days of ovulation, RU-486 prevents implantation or causes sloughing of a fertilized zygote. Some researchers consider it to be an abortifacient."

Mingiardi refused to comment on the issue, but she said that a new brand of ECP, Plan B, is soon to be released on

the Canadian market.

She also explained that the college's health clinic follows the same protocol as other health and urgent clinics in Waterloo Region when dealing with ECP.

"The doctor doesn't have to be present when the pill is given to someone, but a woman has to go with the nurses through an interview about any health problems she might have," Mingiardi said. "After the questionnaire, the nurses give two of the birth control pills to the woman and then two more after 12 hours."

She said these women are also given a Gravol pill because some women have nausea after taking ECP.

In addition to nausea, other side-effects can be spotting, cramping and diarrhea. According to Mingiardi, these side effects are temporary, but may last for several days.

A very small number of women experience more serious side effects such as severe abdominal pain, severe chest pain or shortness of breath, severe headaches and blurring or loss of vision and severe pain in the legs.

If a woman develops any of these warning signs, she has to immediately contact the college's health clinic or one of the Waterloo Region hospitals' emergency rooms, Mingiardi said.

An ECP failure to prevent pregnancy is 1 1/2 to three per cent, she added.

"A follow-up appointment to discuss birth control methods is scheduled after someone takes the pill," she said. "Also, a pregnancy test has to be done if a woman hasn't gotten her period within three weeks after taking the pill."

Depo-Provera is the most effective, reversible birth control method, said Mingiardi.

Depo-Provera has been used worldwide since 1969 and it was approved in Canada in 1997.

Depo-Provera is an injection of a synthetic hormone progestin, given every 11 weeks to prevent pregnancy. Each injection costs \$27 to \$41 and it is about 99 per cent effective.

Other available contraception devices such as condoms, birth control pills, foam, diaphragm, sponge and cervical cap are 79 to 98 per cent effective.

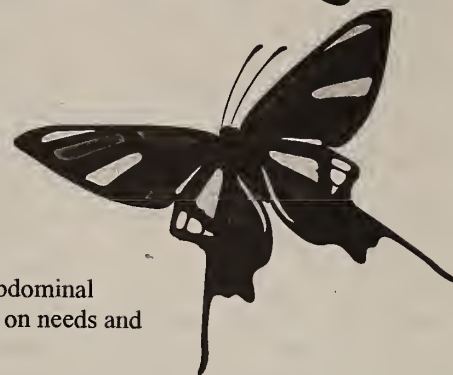
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You will be contacted by the facilitator, Karen Rittinger, to confirm time and date.



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CSI executive members meet the deputy minister

By Michelle Goring

CSI vice-president of academics Mike Harris and CSI vice-president of operations Jon Olinski attended a private luncheon with Canada's Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities Kevin Costante during the February conference of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA) that took place Feb. 9 to Feb. 11 at Centennial College in Scarborough.

"Jon and I had a private luncheon with the deputy minister and his assistant and were able to discuss Conestoga related issues," said Harris.

"After his 20-minute talk to OCCSPA, we went to him and asked if we could talk to him about some college related issues. He then led us into a private room for a luncheon."

Although Harris refused to reveal the issues discussed at the luncheon, he said the deputy minister was very helpful.

"We were glad he took the time

to hear our concerns," Harris said.

The deputy minister attended the OCCSPA conference to talk with members about issues concerning the various student governments.

"Meeting him was definitely the highlight of the conference," said Harris. "This is the highest bureaucrat in the system and he took a Saturday out of his busy schedule to come and speak to us."

Although the meeting with the deputy minister was important, Olinski said he believes there were many significant parts to the OCCSPA conference.

"As a member of OCCSPA, which represents all the community colleges to various groups of government, it is important that Conestoga College's voice is heard on provincial issues," said Olinski.

"What we try to do is take a position on behalf of the college and represent that view to the specific people who come to me at the conferences who want to hear the views from the college."

An issue raised by Harris at the conference was the student union's right to exist. According to Harris, student unions in Ontario do not officially have the right to exist where in Alberta and Manitoba it is a legislated right.

"We were given the impression it would be included in the spring session at the provincial parliament," Olinski outlined in his conference report.

According to Olinski, he was disappointed when the Ontario Public Services Employee Union (OPSEU) representative didn't appear for the scheduled collective bargaining discussion.

"We were all kind of disappointed," Olinski said. "I had a few questions for their representative."

Other topics discussed at the conference were the Key Performance Indicator surveys (which establish accountability and excellence benchmarks at community colleges), the upcoming faculty negotiations and student rights.

Conestoga College was one of



Mike Harris, CSI vice-president of academics, left, and Jon Olinski, CSI vice-president of operations, talked with Kevin Costante, deputy minister of colleges and universities, during the Feb. 9 to 11 meeting of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA) in Scarborough.

(Photo by Michelle Goring)

13 colleges to attend the conference including: Algonquin, Cambrian, Confederation,

Humber, La Cité, Northern, St. Clair, St. Lawrence, the Sault Ste. Marie student administrative council and Sir Sanford Fleming.

Sharing soccer secrets



Stephanie Denhann, left, and Aliyca Punnett, a CSI executive member, demonstrate their skills to the girls' soccer team during a Feb. 13 practice. Denhann, coach of the women's soccer team, asked for Punnett's help to improve the team's defensive skills. The team is winless in 13 games.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Conestoga will be first in North America

Continued from Page 1

"We're always trying to do a better job and this gives us a more solid base on which to build a continuous improvement system," said Tibbits.

Bill Jeffrey, dean of the school of sciences and community services and ISO management representative for Conestoga, said the two-and-a-half-year journey has resulted in a good system for the college.

"I'm absolutely delighted the college has come this far and I'm optimistic that once we get registered, we don't have any place to go except towards improvement," said Jeffrey.

The final ISO registration audit was originally to be completed Jan. 18 and 19, but was changed to Feb. 14-16 after the initial documentation review in November found four minor non-conformances. The date was bumped back a second time to Feb. 21-25.

Jeffrey said after the initial documentation review, the college needed time to regain and correct any deficiencies.

"John (Tibbits) was also out of

the country and we wanted him present," said Jeffrey.

Tibbits said other factors were involved in delaying the final audit.

"This is not a regular organization. This kind of organization slows down around Christmas when you have exams and Christmas break. You lose time in a college and we thought it was important that I be around," said Tibbits.

Tibbits was a member of a local delegation that went to China Feb. 9-18 as part of the Team Canada Trade Mission, which saw Conestoga sign a major agreement with Heilongjiang College of Harbin to open a satellite campus.

Whether or not Conestoga's lead will set standards for other colleges remains to be seen. St. Lawrence College in Brockville began the process for partial certification earlier than Conestoga, which Tibbits said was sort of a wake-up call.

"That made us think because we didn't want to be in the situation where a whole pile of colleges out there were ISO certified and we weren't," said Tibbits. "We decided

to show some leadership in this before we woke up one day and found out that in fact we were down to the last three."

Jeffrey said if the college had a major non-conformance, which would be a failure to recognize an ISO standard, Conestoga would have continued to work towards its goal.

"We would have continued to work until we achieved what we set out to do."

Jeffrey added although the college has been recommended for certification, it is not the end.

"This is a beginning, not an end. They'll come back every six months for periodic assessments. We can celebrate this, but we still have to move forward," said Jeffrey.

"They want to see improvements and we want to ensure students get benefits from it."

The auditors gathered information by examining records, observation and interviews. The cost for the full range of documentation assessment and pre-assessment cost the college roughly \$20,000.

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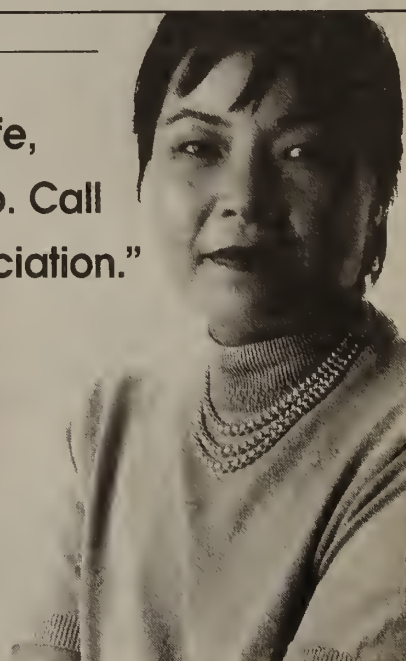
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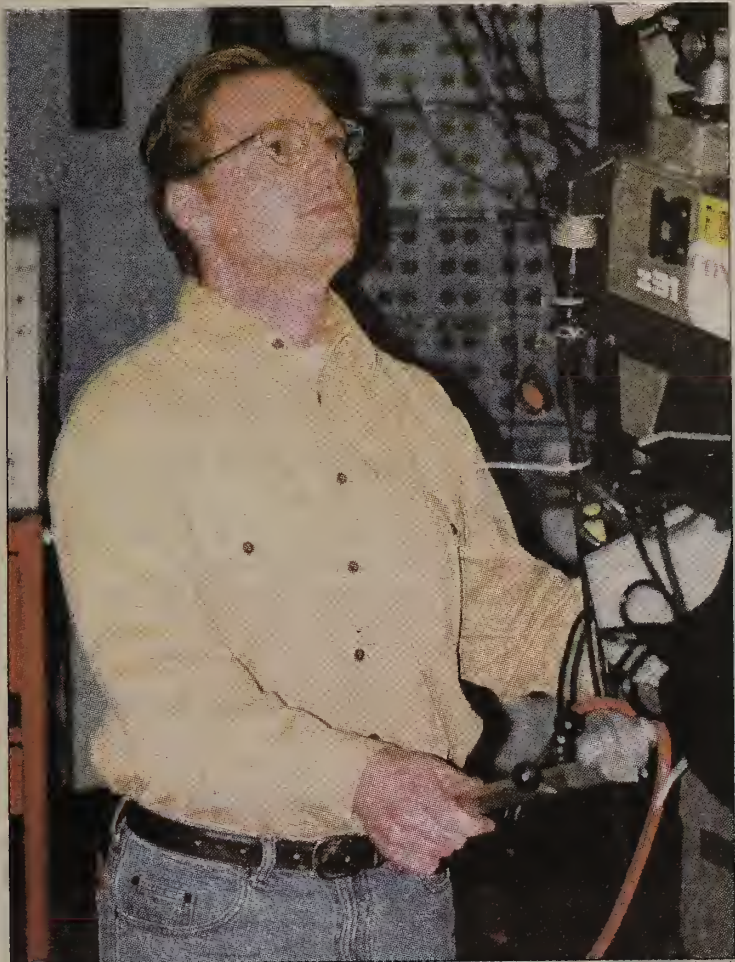
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CANADA'S
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Award-winning teacher joins Conestoga



Dave Haskell, Conestoga's newest addition to the journalism print and broadcast program, said the college's equipment is some of the best in the province, which is great for teachers.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

By Tammy Somerville

Conestoga College's journalism print and broadcast program welcomed a new addition to its faculty Jan. 8.

Dave Haskell, a former instructor at St. Clair College in Windsor and reporter/videographer for the New WE television station, teaches television performance and fundamentals of reporting and research.

Haskell sent his resume to Conestoga a few years ago when he was rethinking his career goals. He received a reply letter, which said there were no openings at the time, but encouraged him to get some post-secondary teaching experience.

He began teaching at St. Clair College after realizing he wanted to teach at the college level because it offers a hands-on experience.

After teaching television production and persuasive writing for one semester at St. Clair, Haskell got a call from Conestoga and now looks forward to the challenges ahead.

"I'd like to teach more broadcasting. My projected course load would include television performance. I am also hoping to teach videography because that's my background," said Haskell, who used to do all of his own camera work and editing.

Haskell is enjoying Conestoga College and said he loves the actual campus itself.

"It's well laid out and nicely land-

scaped. I don't think there is any campus like it in southern Ontario," said Haskell. "Some colleges you go into feel like a high school, but Conestoga, when you walk in, it feels like a place of higher learning."

"Some colleges you go into feel like a high school, but Conestoga, when you walk in, it feels like a place of higher learning."

*Dave Haskell
journalism print and
broadcast faculty*

The broadcasting equipment at the college is easily some of the best in the province, said Haskell.

"I love the equipment here. From a teaching perspective, it's absolutely amazing."

Looking to the future, Haskell said he would like to see the broadcasting side of the program be as big a drawing card as the print side.

Outside of his new duties at the college, Haskell looks forward to doing some documentary work.

His educational background includes a bachelor of arts with honours in English and philosophy and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Western

Ontario. He also received a bachelor of education from the University of Toronto.

Haskell has also received numerous awards, among them, the Hugh Bremner Prize for broadcast journalism from Western's Graduate School of Journalism.

He placed first in television news at the TV Ontario Telefest and was awarded the annual G.R.A. Rice Scholarship by the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation. Haskell won the award for his documentary on the growing popularity of cosmetic surgery and for a news report on alcohol raids in London, Ont.

Haskell also enjoyed nearly 10 years as lead singer of the blues/rock band Myth of Innocence.

Marketing themselves as an alternative band, Myth of Innocence evolved in the summer of '92, eventually playing the university circuit and placing second at the SkyDome Hard Rock Café Battle of the Bands in 1993.

In 1994, Myth of Innocence recorded 1,000 demo CDs, which sold out almost immediately.

The band had success locally at the popular college and university hangouts Loose Change Louie's and Wilf's at Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"We were a Canadian band," said Haskell of the now dismembered band. "By that I mean we had inklings of 54-40 and The Tragically Hip."

Student receives bill for college letter

By Tammy Somerville

When Trevor Hilker, a second-year general arts and science student, picked up his mail Feb. 6, he received his student achievement form and a bill for its postage.

Attached to the envelope was a postage due card from Canada Post for 94 cents.

The card reads, "with this card you received mail that was sent without enough postage."

"I thought it was pretty odd that the post office would send it with no stamp and the college is cheesy for sending it with no stamp," said Hilker.

The amount of the postage due is a question Hilker can't figure out, but he said it doesn't matter because he's not paying it anyway.

"I'm not the one who didn't put the 94 cents on it. The college sent it to me and it would be pretty stupid of the college to pay 94 cents."

Vince Alvino, print shop supervisor at Conestoga, said for Hilker to actually receive the mail is unusual because normally the post office would return mail without the proper postage to the sender.

The print shop is responsible for stamping the college's outgoing mail, which averages about 2,500 pieces every day.

"It is possible two pieces were stuck together because they come in bundles," said Alvino. "Considering the amount of mail that goes through here every day, it's gonna happen. It's a machine."

The college's annual postage bill is over \$200,000, not including parcels and courier service.

Conestoga does not receive any discounts because of volume. Large volume mailers like Visa and banks receive a discount.

A Canada Post employee said the 94-cent bill is double the price of a first class stamp and is normally posted on mail with no postage.

If Hilker had been home at the time of delivery, he could have denied the letter, which then would have been returned to the college.

Because there is no way to know if the postage was actually paid, the postage due cards are based on the honour system. It doesn't have to be paid, but it is supposed to be.



Trevor Hilker, a second-year general arts and science student, holds up the bill he received from the post office.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Swingin' sweethearts



Preschoolers at Conestoga College's Doon Child Care Centre take advantage of the strength of Joe Melow, an early childhood education student at the college. Melow is doing his first placement in the centre's Blue Room. He said he likes the experience and said the children aged 2 to 4 are enjoyable. Swingers left to right are Erica Fach, Jack O'Neil, Alex Fairless, Jessika Burke, Quinton Goos and Taylor Massey. The children get outside twice a day no matter what the season or weather. The consensus among these preschoolers was sunshine is the best, no matter what the temperature outside. Children at the centre are allowed to go outside unless it is colder than -14C.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

Dream CD a hit

By Derek Lester

The new pop sensation group called Dream had its dream come true as it released its first CD, *It Was All A Dream*, in stores on Jan. 23.

The four young women from California, Ashley, Diana, Holly and Melissa, have 12 songs on their CD plus one remix of a song to make a total of 13 songs.

They also included three annoying little interludes in between some songs, which could have been omitted from the CD.

The first four songs on the CD, which includes their first single *He Loves U Not* and their next single *This Is Me*, are really upbeat, like pop songs should be.

That is it for the upbeat songs, though, as they really slow down the pace of their songs on the rest of the CD.

This CD is one that anyone can really sing along with as most of the songs are catchy, and they sing the chorus so often, it makes it that much easier to learn the words to sing along.

The first song on the CD, *He Loves U Not*, is probably the best song on the CD with the upbeat pop style of music coming out nicely.

The third song, *This Is Me*, and the fourth song, *I Don't Like Anyone*, are the next best songs because they too have that upbeat pop style of music that you just want to start singing along with

when you hear it.

These three songs all have a really good beat to them that anyone could dance to.

The second song, *In My Dreams*, is also not a bad song to listen to, but the rest of the CD gets slow and kind of boring and you may find yourself only listening to the first half of these songs before skipping ahead to the next one.

Almost all of the songs deal with relationships and being with that special someone.

One frustrating thing about the CD was the lack of information about the young women. It gives all of their first names, but their last names are nowhere to be found.

They deserve the recognition for this good CD, and if they put out another album like this one, many people will know their names.

Another good thing about this CD is that there are no explicit lyrics or parental advisory warnings, so little children can even listen to their music.

If you like pop music or even slower songs, this is a CD you will enjoy.

These young women really prove that they can sing, and they will probably be a big hit.

So Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera better watch out because a dream has come true for four other young women and their debut CD has started them on a rise to stardom.



Dream's debut album, *It Was All A Dream*, is a big hit, making the top 10 best-selling chart in Canada.

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There has been considerable attention paid to the term "Learning Disability" in the past few years as educators become increasingly aware of the individual needs of students. The term was coined in the 1960's to describe people who, while having average or above average abilities, exhibited difficulty learning in one of the basic academic areas such as reading, writing, or mathematics. Since that time considerable research has helped us to identify and classify what a learning disability is, how to diagnose this problem, and how to help individuals who have a learning disability.

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- ♦ There are tests and procedures that can help identify the exact nature of the disability.
- ♦ There are strategies that can be used to help overcome a learning disability.
- ♦ While everyone has different leaning styles, learning disabilities are marked areas of difficulty.

A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02) and the Special Needs Office (Room 2A109)



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College alumni honoured to be award nominees

By Tammy Somerville

Two Conestoga College graduates nominated for this year's prestigious Premier's Awards say they were honoured to be recognized.

Anne MacKay and Jim Witmer were nominated by Conestoga for the Feb. 19 awards held in conjunction with the annual conference of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO).

The five winners of the awards were Paul Rowan from George Brown college, Betty Bedard-Bidwell from Fanshawe college, Paul Vessey from Durham, Hazel McDonald of St. Clair and Kirk Mandy of Algonquin.

Each of the winners received \$5,000 in bursary funds, to be presented to the colleges of their choice.

The Premier's Awards honour community college alumni who have achieved career success and made contributions to their communities.

MacKay, a business administration/management studies grad from 1987, has been the director

of development for the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and area since 1997.

Before that, she was regional manager for the Arthritis Society and a unit co-ordinator for the Canadian Cancer Society. She is known for her development and presentation of professional and community workshops on fundraising and subjects of value to non-profit organizations.

MacKay was also a founding member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners and the Waterloo Region Fund-raising Executives.

In addition, she is also active with Junior Achievement and serves as a trainer for the Volunteer Leadership Development program of the Volunteer Action Centre of the Kitchener-Waterloo area. She was also a member of the board at Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis.

MacKay said she was incredibly honoured to be nominated.

"I think the nicest thing for me is to have the chance to publicly thank the college and faculty for what they have given me," said



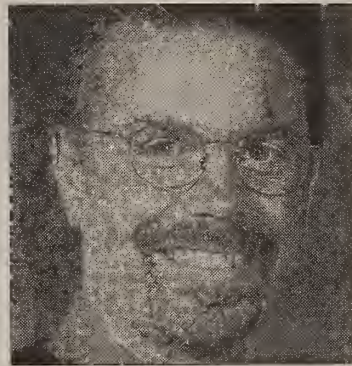
Anne MacKay

MacKay. "For most people, going to Conestoga is like that fork in the road that helps you decide where you want to go."

Studying at Conestoga gave MacKay a chance to learn more about life situations.

She said theory is essential, but until students learn to apply it, there's a chasm between the two.

"Because of the kind of faculty at Conestoga who have been in the workforce and the projects students are assigned to do, they have the opportunity to deal with people out there."



Jim Witmer

It makes learning more applicable," said MacKay.

Witmer, a 1981 construction engineering technology alumnus, has been director of building and chief building official with the city of Kitchener since 1990. Witmer is also a noted presenter of industry-related courses and workshops and is the author of Kitchener's Risk Management Plan and Building Administrative Report.

Witmer said although he was deeply honoured by the nomination, he was also kind of embarrassed because he is not the type of

individual who seeks personal attention

Witmer praised Conestoga College and said it helped set him on the path he has taken with his life.

"Conestoga College prepared me for the future. It provided the tools I needed to handle various jobs and people and become confident in my own abilities," said Witmer. "It has a tremendous follow-up program and program advisory committees."

Witmer is also active professionally in the Waterloo Region Chief Building Officials Committee and the Ontario Building Officials Association (Wellington and District Chapter). He is also the current chair of the Large Municipalities Chief Building Officials Association.

He is the founder of the Athletes in Action Baseball Camp, and is on the corporate board of directors for Ray of Hope, an organization that counsels young offenders.

The Premier's Award originated in 1992, to mark the 25th anniversary of Ontario's system of colleges of applied arts and technology.

Timetable scheduling remains unchanged

By Paul Kostal

As far as timetable scheduling goes, there probably won't be much of a change in the next couple of years, but change is coming eventually.

At a recent college council meeting, Grant McGregor, principal of Conestoga's Doon campus, revealed that Conestoga would most likely have to go to some kind of computerized timetabling as the student body increases in size.

When the double cohort of graduating high school students enters the post-secondary system in 2002, it will put a strain on every aspect of the college, including the scheduling of timetables.

Currently the college employs two people, working part time, to work out the schedules for each semester.

Any concerns about timetabling are brought to the college administration, and McGregor said the two employees have tried to work around legitimate concerns.

McGregor has recently completed a tour of Niagara College's facilities for timetabling and compared the effectiveness of their computerized system to Conestoga's manual one.

"They employ two people full time to work on the computerized scheduling," he said, adding that

he doesn't believe there will be any real advantage to computerized timetabling for Conestoga at present.

He added that as Conestoga grows there will most likely be a need to go to computerized timetabling because with more students and more classes, scheduling becomes that much more difficult.

He said that with computerized scheduling, however, there would no longer be any ability to work around suggestions for schedule changes.

Several members of the college council expressed concern about the attendance of students at classes on Friday afternoons.

McGregor said the idea of ending classes earlier on Fridays had been considered by administration, but he called that a "slippery slope", saying that when classes are pushed back to noon on Fridays, it won't be long before it becomes 4:30 on Thursdays.

He said other possible suggestions to handle the extra student load of the physical space in the buildings would be to extend class hours to 5:30 p.m.

He did stress, however that that may not be possible because many students have part-time jobs and children to pick up at day-care centres which would prohibit scheduling of classes that late in the day.

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SPOKE:
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The Gift will make your heart pound

Cheap camera tricks have audience jumping

By Paul Kostal

Remember The Sixth Sense? The sense of fear and foreboding you experienced the first time you watched it?

The Gift, starring Cate Blanchett, recreates that sense of fear and terror expertly.

Blanchett plays a single mother cursed with the "gift" of psychic pre-science, who uses her abilities to pay the bills and raise her three sons.

Set in a small town of the American south, many of the townsfolk, and in particular, wife-beater Donny Barksdale, played convincingly by a scruffy Keanu Reeves, brand her a witch and a charlatan.

The daughter of a wealthy and prominent businessman in the city goes missing, and, when the police can unearth no clues, they turn to, yep, Blanchett.

At times predictable, and often using cheap tricks like camera angles and sudden changes in volume to get the audience to jump, The Gift is still a remarkably good thriller that is built around the strength of solid acting throughout the picture.

The best of the bunch would

have to be the aforementioned Reeves, and a strikingly powerful performance by Giovanni Ribisi (The Mod Squad, The Other Sister), as an abused shop mechanic. Blanchett gives an understated and subtle performance as the single mother trying to cope with the weight of the world.

The first hour of the movie is designed to build the tension and set up the conflicts that will be unravelled in the last hour of the movie.

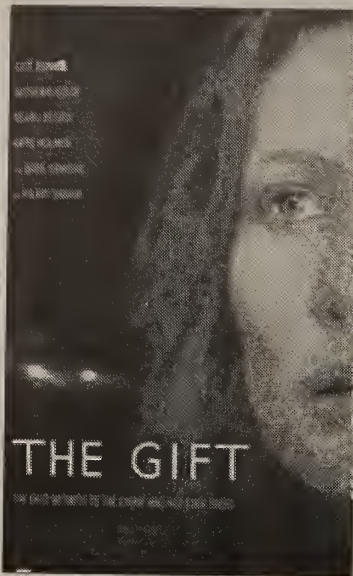
Watch for several clues in the dreams and visions early in the movie.

They are very subtle and may require a second watching to fully understand. The blue diamond reference was particularly clever.

Co-starring Katie Holmes, Greg Kinnear and Hilary Swank and produced by Billy Bob Thornton, it is somewhat surprising, given all the star-wattage involved in the film, that it hasn't received more publicity.

It is certainly solid enough to deserve it.

Directed by horror-master Sam Raimi, of Evil Dead fame, the Gift is a much more sophisticated thriller than some of his other movies.

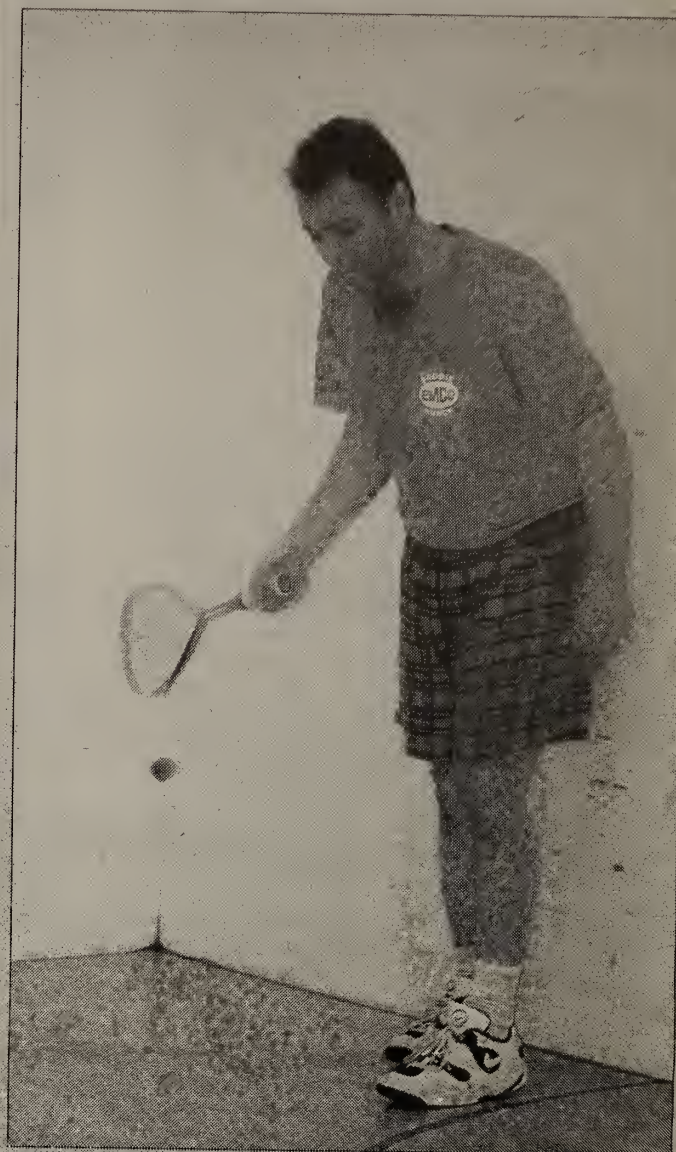


The Gift, starring Cate Blanchett, is a solidly acted horror movie set in the American south. Blanchett stars as a single mother with a psychic gift who is witness to a gruesome murder of a prominent woman without even being there.

Make no mistake, even though this is a horror movie it is the characters and the many character conflicts that drive this movie.

All in all, The Gift is not a remarkably spectacular film, but it is a great movie to get a good fright from, and really, that's all it was trying to accomplish in the first place.

Working up a sweat



Gene "Shoeless" Jones sweats it out during a game of squash at the rec centre Feb. 15. Jones, who has been a member of the centre for about five years, got the nickname "Shoeless" after showing up twice to play squash without his shoes.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

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Referee leaves mark on Condors game again

By Paul Kostal

The last time Phil Olinski refereed a game at Conestoga's recreation centre the Condors and the visiting Cambrian Golden Shield combined for 114 minutes in penalties with the home team losing the game.

The Condors played host to Sir Sanford Fleming on Valentine's Day, hoping to finish the season on a winning note, and referee Olinski imposed himself upon the outcome of the game again.

Conestoga and Fleming combined for over two hours in penalties.

Fleming opened the scoring early when Wes Neild beat Andy Hopkins. Just past the one-minute mark, Peter Willis converted a feed from Neild to make the game 2-0.

Just like the last game Olinski refereed at the rec centre, on Jan. 13 against Cambrian, he let the players play the game unscathed for about the first half of the first period before he started calling penalties.

The Condors' Darren Smegal was able to answer one of Fleming's goals near the 15 minute mark of the first from Matt Turcotte and Dave Stewart, just after two Fleming penalties had expired.

Fleming started the middle period quickly, with Neild scoring within the first minute again, for his third point of the night.

Conestoga answered when Turcotte put one past Dave Burroughs from Stewart and Paul Flewwetting.

Fleming would add two more to make the score 5-2 after 40 minutes.

Stewart would assist on both of Conestoga's goals in the penalty-ridden third period to pull the home team within one.

But Neild would pot his fourth goal, and fifth point, of the night into the empty net with just two seconds remaining.



Head coach Greg Rickwood puts the Condors through drills during a practice Feb. 12.
(Photo by Paul Kostal)

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Students say college overstepped bounds

By Michelle Goring

Conestoga College president John Tibbits asked the CSI to cease and desist their student complaint form process at a meeting on Jan. 29.

The CSI student complaint forms were implemented for students who feel they have not been treated fairly by the college or believe their student rights have been violated.

This includes harassment or discrimination by college employees, disputes over final grades, too many cancelled classes and marking biases.

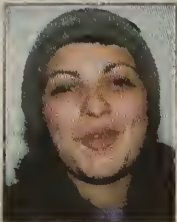
After a complaint form is completed, it is signed by the student and the CSI vice-president of academics.

The CSI will then write a letter to the subject of the complaint and a copy of the letter is sent to that per-

son's supervisor.

The complaint form process had received negative feedback from the Ontario Public Service Employee Union Local 237, which represents faculty and Local 238, which represents support staff. The unions were concerned about third-party record keeping on faculty performance and the CSI collecting information about faculty and employees at the college.

Subsequently, Tibbits asked the CSI to cease and desist after the college reviewed the letters of complaint and determined they were outside the exclusive forum set down by the college for dealing with these



Ibrahim

complaints.

Tibbits said the college would not tolerate letters that defame faculty or poison the learning environment.

During a random survey of students at the Doon campus Feb. 16, most students said they felt the college didn't have the right to tell the CSI to cease their complaint form process.

Dahlia Ibrahim, a first-year journalism student, said she believes students have a right to express their opinion and have a right to speak out.

"The college is trying to cover up the problem by telling the CSI to stop the complaint form process,"



Sykora

said Ibrahim. "We have the right to express our opinions."

Ryan Sykora, a first-year general business student, said he believes the college has an obligation to respond to student complaints.

Kim Harris, a first-year occupational therapy assistant and physiotherapy assistant student, said the complaint forms are a reasonable way to deal with problems that might come about.

"We're here to get an education and we're paying for it," Harris said.

Brad Hearn, a first-year accounting student, said he thinks the col-



Harris

lege shouldn't tell the CSI to stop the complaint form process.

"Students should be able to speak freely," said Hearn. "I think students would feel threatened and discouraged going to management themselves."

Ryan Gibson, a first-year robotics and animation student, said the CSI should be able to decide whether they should use the student complaint forms.



Hearn



Gibson

Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

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SPOKE wants to hear from you

The reporters at Conestoga College's student newspaper want to hear what you like and dislike about our publication. Please fill out the survey below and deposit it into boxes in the learning resource centre or at CSI's office in the Sanctuary. You can also drop it off in the Spoke newsroom in 4B13.

What information is important in your life at Conestoga College?

What do you want to know about Conestoga College?

What do you like or dislike about Spoke?

What would you like to see more or less of in Spoke?

We would like to hear from you. Spoke is your newspaper and it should represent your needs and interests. We will take your suggestions to heart and do what we can to ensure that this publication benefits all members of the Conestoga College community. Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing your concerns and serving your needs.